



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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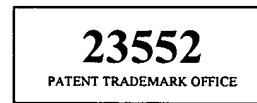
Applicant: SWART ET AL. Examiner: D. BECKER
Serial No.: 10/043,827 Group Art Unit: 1761
Filed: JANUARY 11, 2002 Docket: 163.1386USU1
Confirmation No.: 7890
Due Date: JUNE 6, 2004 (Sunday/2-Month Date)
Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR REDUCING MICROBIAL BURDEN ON A FOOD PRODUCT

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 7, 2004.

By: Debra H. Bailey
Name: Debra H. Bailey

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Amendment and Response
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
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By: Mark T. Skoog
Name: Mark T. Skoog
Reg. No.: 40,178
MSkoog:TSW:PLSdb



**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1761**

S/N 10/043,827

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Swart et al.	Examiner:	Becker, Drew
Serial No.:	10/043,827	Group Art Unit:	1761
Filed:	January 11, 2002	Docket No.:	163.1386-US-U1
Title:	METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR REDUCING MICROBIAL BURDEN ON A FOOD PRODUCT		

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By:

Name:

Debra A Bailey
Debra A Bailey

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed April 6, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks and arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.